

GRACE NEWS

Aug/Sept
2018

**A Publication of
Grace Presbyterian
Church**



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"When it calms down..." How many times have I said that this year? "When it calms down, I will..." I had so many projects and goals for when it "calms down."

It never calmed down. So much stuff just happened all at once, right when I planned on doing some of the "summer work" of the church. We had a big opportunity come our way that needed and needs active attention right now, a maintenance issue that highlighted the "passion" of the people who serve Grace, and a staffing change that took up the time that a staffing change takes up, just to name a few things that took this planned time of calm and shaped it into a time of crazy.

In all of it, I have seen—and shown—times of lacking grace, letting frustration overtake my focus. I know others did, as well. I did not just plan to get projects done during the calm; I also planned to create a time of rejuvenation by letting the business of the church and the work of the church slow down and require less of everyone during that time. We have shared a busy 10 months since I arrived, and everyone kind of needs to breathe.

The world and the building did not have that planned for us. It has reminded me of something I knew but just kind of figured I could ignore this year:

We cannot rely on the world and the church to give us opportunity for self-care because the world and the church will always need more than we can give. We have to take care of ourselves, especially when we have the call to take care of others.

I want everyone who reads this to take a day—any day—and just breathe and recuperate. Jesus went off on his own to pray and recharge; we do not have more stamina than Jesus despite what we may try to believe about ourselves. We need to recharge however we recharge.

Take a breath. Winter is coming... errr... I mean, we have started to approach the busy part of the church year and no one will just give us opportunity to rest.

Take care of yourself. We all need self-care.

Peace,
- Pastor Rob



Presbyterian Women

Sarah Circle

Will meet September 13 at 1:00pm in the church Fellowship Hall

Cancer Pad Sewing

Come and help with this great Mission
No special sewing skills are needed. Just a simple basting stitch.

**** August 15 and September 19 ****
in the Gold Room



Lunch Bunch

12 noon at Glenbrook Mall Food Court near JC Penny's. All women are invited.

August 30 & September 27

All Women are invited to participate in any and all of these activities! 😊



Committee Heads, Church Leaders, and Volunteers:

Starting soon, we will begin the process of rebuilding the website and improve the content contained on it. If you head a committee, lead a group, or simply have something to add for content, please get in touch with us so when we begin, you can get that content to us to put up!

Also, if you have proofreading skills and want to check our work, or you know your way around WordPress or have experience in web development, please let us know.

Send any content to graceoffice@gpcfw.org with the subject line "WEBSITE CONTENT" and any volunteer e-mails to gracepastor@gpcfw.org with the subject line "WEBSITE VOLUNTEER".



World Communion Sunday – October 7, 2018

October 7th the first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world.

It is our attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another.

Thus it is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual [Peace and Global Witness Offering](#) as a way of continuing the Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need.

Fifty per cent of this Peace & Global Witness Offering will stay with our community and our region for ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation and 50% will unite Presbyterians who are working actively for peacemaking efforts around the globe.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! Your gifts will help more people experience the freedom and dignity that Christ wants for everyone. Let us offer the peace of Christ at all times and all ways.



The Story Money Tells

There is a powerful relationship between our true spiritual condition and our attitude and actions concerning money and possessions.

The early church provides an example of this connection. The depth of transformation in the early Christians was clearly evident in their willingness to surrender their money and possessions to meet each other's needs (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35). It was no more natural for these Christians to cheerfully liquidate and disburse assets they had spent their lives accumulating than it would be for us. Although private ownership of property was still practiced by the early Christians, the joyful giving and sharing of this property became the new norm of supernatural living.

Studying the early church, the poor widow, the rich fool, Zacchaeus, the rich young ruler, and other Bible characters shows that our handling of money is a litmus test of our true character. Our stewardship of our money and possessions becomes the story of our lives.

If it is true of people in that time, doesn't it have a special application to us who live in a time and place of unparalleled affluence and who live in a country where the "poverty level" exceeds the average standard of living of nearly every other society in human history, past or present?

If we have sufficient food, decent clothes, live in a home that shields us from the weather, and own some kind of reliable transportation, we're in the top 15 percent of the world's wealthy. Add some saving, two cars (in any condition), a variety of clothes, and our own house, then we have reached the top 5 percent. We may not feel wealthy, but that's only because we're comparing ourselves to the mega-wealthy.

Because we all will eventually give an account of our lives to God (Romans 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10), one day everyone must answer these questions:

Where did it all go?

What did I spend it on?

What, if anything, did I support with it?

What has been accomplished for eternity through my use of all this wealth?

We will be held accountable for what we do in this life, including what we do with our money. If we are generous with our possessions and faithful in our service, God will reward us beyond our imagination! If we live only for ourselves, hoarding our money and focusing on our earthly comfort, we will lose the eternal rewards God had planned for us. As Christians, we are saved by God's grace—but what we do in this life will matter for eternity.

Adapted from *The Law of Rewards* (2003) by Randy Alcorn



McCracken Basketball Camp

The McCracken Basketball Camp just finished a session at Fort Wayne. This is our 56th year of running camps.



Staff included Connie Stucky's grandson, Brady Howell (front row, second from right), Grace German (back row, second from right) and me (back row, center).



Campers included Alex Monnier and JoAnn Gett's granddaughter, Delaney Seitz.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

August

August 8 Charlotte Jacobs
 August 9 Carol Fahrenbach
 August 12 Karen Horner
 August 19 Tammy Menkes
 August 20 Frank Lehman
 August 21 Jon Wolf
 August 24 Bob Fahrenbach
 August 28 Tom Weber
 August 29 Jackson Bean
 August 30 Bill Werling
 August 30 Nick Barchak
 August 31 Connie Stucky
 August 31 Donna Parrish



September

September 1 Meara Geist
 September 3 Bruce Bennett
 September 4 Mary Pattern
 September 5 Maureen Rogers
 September 7 Brian Geist
 September 7 Doug Haller
 September 7 Judi Eckler-Queen
 September 8 Rachel Lilly
 September 8 Lauren Widmann
 September 12 Dot Gilbert
 September 14 Anne Courtney
 September 16 Linda Haller
 September 16 Audra Widmann
 September 18 Laurie Howard
 September 19 Kevin Mahoney
 September 20 Landon Seitz
 September 21 Mila Wolf
 September 22 Allison Schneider
 September 23 Steve Lochry
 September 24 Don Stoiche
 September 25 Tom Callahan
 September 25 Brian Zimmerman
 September 27 Todd German

Happy Anniversary

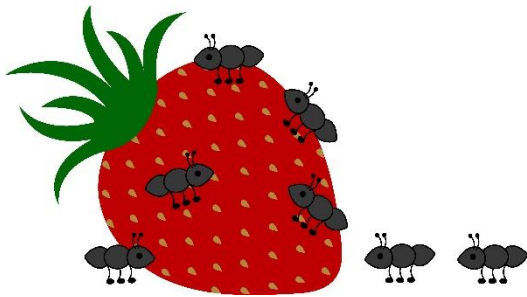
8/09/2003 Matt & Teri Seitz
 8/24/1965 Bryan & Beth Boggess
 8/25/2018 Gregory & Rachel Lilly
 8/27/2016 Steve & Katie Lochry

9/02/1917 Troy & Karia Lee
 9/03/1984 Jeff & Betsy Katchmar
 9/08/2012 Ezekiel & Misty Tsamwa
 9/12/1998 Rev. Bob & Marjory Leas
 9/25/2010 Carl & Cherie Jacobs
 9/28/1996 Kevin & Jennifer Mahoney



Church Attendance

June 3 – 55
June 10 – 50
June 17 – 57
June 24 – 39
July 1 – 50
July 8 – 50
July 15 – 52
July 23 – Not recorded
July 29 – 50



SIGN UP

Just Neighbors - Interfaith Hospitality Network - Grace Meal Plan September 2nd - 7th

What is it? Take meal (full kitchen available if want to cook/warm there), serve meal (buffet style), join residents & staff for meal, everyone pitches in to clean up, optional activity/reading program, leave food for latecomers upon request, pack up extra & take away (minimal storage). All usual kitchen/serving items are available. Bring or check if you want something unusual.

Why? Just Neighbors mission: "Serving homeless families by uniting faith community volunteers & local agencies in a cooperative effort to provide shelter, meals, and comprehensive, compassionate & ongoing support."

Questions? Contact Betsy Kachmar [260-410-4991](tel:260-410-4991)/Betsy_Kachmar@yahoo.com to let her know what day(s) works best for you! ☺



Worship with Our Neighbors in the Park on September 2nd!

September 2nd we will be celebrating communion and worshipping with the 46808 churches. A potluck will follow the service. The location is in the pavilion at Franklin Park.

10:30 Worship Service with Communion

12:00 Pitch-in-Lunch (Pulled Pork Provided)



**A – K bring a side dish
&
L – Z bring dessert**



Back to School Tailgate Kickoff!



September 9th
Wear your favorite athletic jersey!